

U.S. Serial No. 10/761,552 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020D1)
Art Unit: 1712

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks

Please consider the application in view of the following remarks.

II. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. In this Response, claims 1-22 have been canceled and claims 27-44 have been added.

III. Requirement for Election/Restrictions

A. Requirement for Restriction of Claims

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

1. Claims 1-22, drawn to a drilling fluid, classified in class 507, subclass 103;
2. Claims 23-26, drawn to a method of drilling a wellbore comprising the use of a drilling fluid, classified in class 166, subclass 244.1.

Applicants have elected claims 23-26 without traverse and canceled claims 1-22 without prejudice, reserving their rights to pursue these non-elected and now canceled claims in further divisional or continuation patent applications.

Applicants have amended claims 23-26 to incorporate the elements of the claims from which they depended, making these claims 23-26 independent claims. Applicants have added new claims 27-32 to depend from claim 23, have added new claims 33-39 to depend from claim 24, and have added new claims 40-44 to depend from claim 25.

B. Requirement for Election of Species

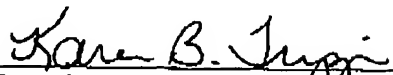
The Examiner has further asserted that this application contains claims directed to groups of patentably distinct species. According to the Examiner, with respect to claims 23-26, these species are: the linear alpha olefins of claim 23, the isomerized olefins of claims 24 and 26, and the naphthenic olefins of claim 25. The Examiner has required election under 35 U.S.C. 121 of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is held to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants elect the species of isomerized olefins of claims 24 and 26 and new claims 33-39.

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Respectfully submitted,

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